

General Permits

For True Minor Sources Only

Under Section 39.10 of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act (Act), the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) is providing general permits for specific categories of true minor sources.

What is a General Permit?

A general permit is a permit that covers a specific category of facilities/ sources that have similar operations and types of emissions. Individual permits are unique to each facility based on the facility's operations, type and amount of emissions, equipment, and other factors. Because individual permits for some categories of sources can contain very similar or, in many cases, identical emission limitations and requirements, their standard contents have been compiled into one pre-approved permit that can be applied to certain categories of sources. This is a general permit.

What is a True Minor Source?

Air pollution sources whose potential to emit (PTE) is less than the major source annual emission thresholds are considered minor sources. Potential to Emit (PTE) is defined at Section 39.5 of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act and is used to predict the release of air contaminants from an emission source operating at its maximum rate capacity, 24 hours per day, 365 days a year (8760 operating hours per year). A true minor air pollution source is one that, even operating at its maximum capacity and continuously, cannot exceed the major source annual emission threshold levels. A true minor source should not be confused with a synthetic minor source which is an air pollution source that has a Federally Enforceable State Operating Permit (FESOP) with conditions that legally restrict its PTE to below the major source threshold levels below.

A **major source** is defined as any stationary source (or any group of stationary sources that are located on one or more contiguous or adjacent properties, and are under common control of the same person or persons) belonging to a single major industrial grouping and is described in one of the following:

- **potential to emit** 100 tons per year ("T/yr") or more of any air pollutant, i.e., particulate matter(PM-10), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), carbon monoxide (CO), or volatile organic material (VOM);
- **potential to emit** 10 T/yr or more of any one of the 187 Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs) listed pursuant to section 112(b) of the Clean Air Act;
- **potential to emit** 25 T/yr or more of any combination of HAPS; or
- **potential to emit** 100,000 T/yr or more of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e) of greenhouse gases(GHG) but only if potential to emit is major for one of the above also.

Potential to emit is the maximum capacity of a stationary source to emit any air pollutant under its physical and operational design after any required reduction by air pollution control devices. Note that this is calculated considering the maximum capacity of the equipment (use 8760 operating hours per year).

What Sources Can Apply for a General Permit?

The Illinois EPA is providing general permits for true minor sources in the following industry categories: portable material (non-waste) crushing plants, soil/groundwater remediation systems, stationary concrete batch plants and portable concrete batch plants.

Specific types of general permits for these industry categories from the Bureau of Air include:

- two remediation system (ASSVE/Air Stripper) permits,
- two portable crushing plant permits,
- four portable concrete batch plant permits, and
- twelve non-portable concrete batch plant permits

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What Are the Benefits of the General Permit Program?

Once a source has a general operating permit they are able to add or modify emission units without having to obtain a construction permit or revised operating permit as long as they stay at or below the maximum number of emission units allowed by the general operating permit with which they are covered. This saves the source time and money in the preparation of construction and operating permit applications and construction permit application fees. In addition, the source will not have to wait for additions and modifications to be issued for their permit each time they want to add or modify an emission unit given they can comply with their general operating permit limits. This also increases efficiency for the Bureau of Air as it reduces the number of applications reviewed and permits issued for true minor sources of pollution so more resources can be allocated to reviewing and permitting larger sources of air emissions.

How Does a Source Become Covered by a General Permit?

In order to obtain coverage by the general operating permits provided pursuant to Section 39.10 of the Act, the source must complete and submit a **Notice of Intent to be Covered Form** and the appropriate construction permit application fee for a new stationary source or new or existing portable source requesting coverage by a joint general construction and lifetime operating permit. If the source is an existing non-portable source, then just the appropriate Notice of Intent to be Covered Form would need to be completed and submitted in order to obtain coverage by one of the lifetime general operating permits. (An existing source is one that has previously been issued a permit by the Illinois EPA Bureau of Air)

Upon review of the Notice of Intent to be Covered Form by the Bureau of Air Permit Section, the appropriate general permit would be issued and a copy sent to the applicant or the applicant would be notified of deficiencies with their Notice of Intent to be Covered Form. If the noted deficiencies are rectified then the appropriate permit would be issued and a copy sent to the applicant.

The following Notice of Intent to be Covered forms for General Permits are available:

- [Truck Mix Concrete Batch Plant \(APC 660\)](#)
- [Central Mix Concrete Batch Plant \(APC 661\)](#)
- [Portable Truck Mix Concrete Batch Plant \(APC 662\)](#)
- [Portable Central Mix Concrete Batch Plant \(APC 663\)](#)
- [Portable Crushing Plant \(APC 664\)](#)
- [Remediation System \(APC 665\)](#)

Are General Permits the Same as Lifetime General Operating Permits?

Prior to the new provisions for general permitting (Section 39.10 of the Act), the Illinois EPA Bureau of Air issued lifetime general operating permits to concrete batch plants, grain elevators and aggregate plants/quarries. Unlike the new general permits being issued pursuant to Section 39.10, the previously approved lifetime general operating permits require the applicant to submit the APC-629 Application for a Permit to Construct and Operate, 197-FEE Fee Determination for Construction Permit Application and other applicable forms. These pre-Section 39.10 lifetime general operating permits for grain elevators and aggregate plants/quarries will continued to be issued in this manner and remain available; however, pre-Section 39.10 lifetime general operating permits and application procedures for the concrete industry are no longer available and are now replaced with new general permits and the Notice of Intent to be Covered Form discussed above. Both the new general permits and the Lifetime General Operating Permits do not expire as long as site fees are paid annually.

Do Sources with Existing Lifetime General Operating Permits have to Apply for a New General Permit?

No, existing sources with permits issued prior to Section 39.10 of the Act will continue to operate under their Lifetime General Operating Permit.

Questions?

**If you have questions regarding air permitting, please contact the
Illinois EPA Air Permit Section at 217-785-1705 or the
Illinois Small Business Environmental Assistance Program at 800-252-3998.**